[8th March 1955

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) & (b) No repairs were carried out to the canal for the past many years due to the uneconomic nature of the work. The Chief Engineer has, however, been asked to examine whether traffic is appreciable in the canal and whether it will justify the cost involved in taking up the work."

Higher Elementary School for Karuvarakkundu

* 1162 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many petitions the District Educational Officer, Kozhikode, Malabar, has received from Sri T. K. Gopalan, Karuvarakkundu, Ernad taluk, Malabar since 1952, requesting the Government to open a Higher Elementary School at Karuvarakkundu ; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on these petitions, if any?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) It is not the policy of the Government to open elementary schools. The hon. Member apparently refers to permission that the Education Department has to give to open such schools. It is reported that the proposal to open a Higher Elementary school at Karuvarakkundu was received late in the office of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore, and that the proposal was deferred. The proposal, if received in time next year in the office of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, will be considered on its merits."

Jassid attack on paddy crops.

* 1163 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check, prevent and cure the jassid attack on paddy crops;

(b) the experiments conducted and the results thereof ; and

(c) the cheapest and the most effective treatment suggested by Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) to (c) The information required by the hon. Member is given in the statement[a] placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" There is only one Plant Protection Officer in each district and with the large-scale jassid attack on paddy crops, these officers are not able to go round all the taluks and bring the attack under control. The number of sprayers available in the Taluk Demonstrator's office is very little

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 173–174 infra.